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COAL INDUSTRY MOVES AHEAD

MINISTER OF COAL INDUSTRY GIVES OVER-ALL PICTURE -- Izvestiya, No 145, 20 Jun 50

At a session of the Supreme Soviet USSR which opened in Moscow on 12 June, A. F. Zasyad'ko, Minister of the Coal Industry, gave an address describing the over-all picture of the industry. The substance of his remarks is given in the following report.

During the postwar Five-Year Plan, the coal industry has been successfully coping with the task of increasing the coal output. In 1949, the plan for coal production was fulfilled ahead of schedule; and, in the fourth quarter, the coal output level planned for the last year of the Five-Year Plan was achieved.

The Donbass mines are being successfully restored. During the fourth quarter of 1949, they were producing more coal than in prewar 1940. The Donbass has again become the largest and the most mechanized coal basin in the country. The total coal output for 1949 in the USSR was 13 percent higher than in 1948, and the coking coal output was 17.9 percent higher.

Coal production has also increased at a rapid rate in the eastern regions of the country. The Kuzbass had a greater coal output in 1949 than in the prewar period; coal production is also steadily increasing in the Urals, East Siberia, and the Far East. The Karaganda Basin in Kazakh SSR has received further intensive development and is producing considerably more coal than the prewar level.

By the end of 1949, the chief coal mining processes were mechanized as follows: cutting, 99 percent; conveying, 99.5 percent; haulage 93 percent; loading onto railroad cars, 99.5 percent.

The increase in technical equipment of mines and the extensive introduction of new technique have raised labor productivity in the coal industry to 13 percent above that of the corresponding period of 1949.

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Along with the development of coal mining, construction of new mines is proceeding on a broad scale. The USSR is expending large sums for the construction of mines, dwelling houses, and cultural buildings. The Ministry of the Coal Industry fulfilled the 1949 plan for construction and assembly work 100.8 percent. In 1949 alone, more than 1.7 million square meters of living quarters were constructed and put into use. The plan for constructing living quarters was fulfilled 105.6 percent.

During 1949, the coal industry saved 142.6 million rubles by reducing costs on all commercial production. Enterprises and organizations of the Ministry of the Coal Industry delivered 54 million rubles in above-plan savings. The coal industry has fulfilled the government-set task of beginning 1950 operations without subsidy.

Great tasks still face the coal industry. It is necessary to eliminate lags in mine construction and in tapping new production capacities. More rapid development of coal mining in new regions on the basis of newly opened coal deposits must be achieved. The restoration of the Donbass must be completed during 1950, according to the plan, and all mines here must be put into operation. Great attention must be paid to increasing the level of mechanization both in the Donbass mines being restored and in new construction. The government demands reorganization of the work of construction organizations in the coal industry and a 25-percent reduction in construction costs.

One of the great flaws in the industry is that, although the gross plan for coal output is being fulfilled, a number of mines, trusts, and enterprises are falling short of their quota. The Ministry will take measures to assure fulfillment of the plan by all mines, trusts, and enterprises of the coal industry.

To fulfill the task set by Stalin, of raising the coal output to 500 million tons per year, it is necessary to mechanize extensively all processes of coal mining, to introduce the most modern techniques, and step up labor productivity considerably. It is necessary to exploit more efficiently the tremendous number of mining machines with which mines are provided.

Demands on the coal industry by the national economy are constantly increasing. It is necessary not only to increase coal output but also its quality. The coal industry must not rest on its achievements. Great attention must be paid to cleaning and sorting, particularly coal suitable for coking. It is necessary to increase the speed of the construction and putting into operation of coal-cleaning plants and to raise steadily the quality of coal shipped to the consumer.

NEW COAL COMBINE FACILITATES CUTTING THIN SEAMS -- Zarya Vostoka, No 135,
25 Jun 50

The new "UKT-1" coal combine, created by USSR designers and tested in actual mining operations, has proved to have excellent qualities for mining seams from 0.4 to 0.7 meters thick. The new machine is simple in design, compact, easy and safe to operate. A state commission has given it a high rating and the Ministry of the Coal Industry has already decided to have an experimental consignment of the machines constructed.

The new machine should result in a real technical revolution in working thin coal seams and at the same time assure the country of considerable additional coal.

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MINERS RECEIVE TECHNICAL TRAINING -- Izvestiya, No 136, 9 Jun 50

Hundreds of young specialists for the coal industry are being graduated yearly from the mining technical school in the city of Kizel. They are working not only in the Kizel mines but in the coal basins of Siberia and the Far East.

Nearly 250 will graduate from the school in 1950. Many of these were miners before attending the school. In addition to the important group of mining technicians, 65 have received highly specialized training.

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